AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (canceled).

2. (currently amended): An image correction method comprising the steps of:

previously setting at least one verbal expression representing a condition of an image or a direction of correction of the image, at least one level indicative expression as to a degree of improperness of the image or a degree of the correction to be executed to the image and at least one image correction condition corresponding to the verbal expression and the level indicative expression;

inputting the verbal expression and the level indicative expression as a correction instruction according to the image; and

correcting the image under the corresponding image correction condition according to the input verbal expression and the level indicative expression;

wherein a plurality of image correction conditions of different intensities are set with respect to the verbal expression, and a plurality of images corrected under the image correction conditions are reproduced according to the input verbal expression and one of the image correction conditions is selected based on the level indicative expression.

3. (currently amended): An image correction method comprising the steps of:

previously setting at least one verbal expression representing a condition of an image or a direction of correction of the image, at least one level indicative expression as to a degree of

improperness of the image or a degree of the correction to be executed to the image and at least

one image correction condition corresponding to the verbal expression and the level indicative

expression;

inputting the verbal expression and the level indicative expression as a correction

instruction according to the image; and

correcting the image under the corresponding image correction condition according to the

input verbal expression and the level indicative expression;

wherein a relationship between a set of the verbal expression and the level indicative

expression first input with respect to the image and correction of the image finally made is

totalized, and the image correction condition corresponding to the verbal expression and the level

indicative expression is updated according to a result of totalization.

4. (original): The image correction method according to claim 3, wherein image scenes

of the images are sorted by using image characteristic values of the images and the totalization is

performed for each of the image scenes sorted.

5. (original): The image correction method according to claim 3, wherein, when the

image is reproduced on a photographic print, the image is sorted according to at least one of

printing method, type of printing paper, printer model, individual printer used, operator using the

printer, and laboratory store concerned, before the relationship between the verbal expression

first input and the correction of the image finally made is totalized for each sorting process so as

to update the image correction condition corresponding to the verbal expression according to the

result of the totalization.

6. (currently amended): An image correction method comprising the steps of:

previously setting at least one verbal expression representing a condition of an image or a

direction of correction of the image, <u>at least one level indicative expression as to a degree of</u>

<u>improperness of the image or a degree of the correction to be executed to the image</u> and at least

one image correction condition corresponding to the verbal expression <u>and the level indicative</u>

<u>expression</u>;

inputting the verbal expression <u>and the level indicative expression</u> as a correction

instruction according to the image; and

correcting the image under the corresponding image correction condition according to the

input verbal expression <u>and the level indicative expression</u>;

wherein a plurality of image correction conditions having different image correcting

algorithms are set with respect to the verbal expression; image correction is performed by

selecting one of the image correction conditions <u>based on the level indicative expression</u>; a

number of times each of the image correction conditions is selected is totalized; and a priority

order of each of the plurality of image correction conditions is updated according to a result of

totalization.

7. (original): The image correction method according to claim 3, wherein a condition

setting algorithm of image processing is updated according to the result of the totalization.

8. (previously presented): The image correction method according to claim 2, wherein

density control according to a result of extraction of an essential portion is included as image

processing, and recomputation of an amount of density control according to the result of

extraction of the essential portion is included as an image correction according to the verbal

expression.

9. (currently amended): An image correction method comprising the steps of:

previously setting at least one verbal expression representing a condition of an image or a direction of correction of the image, at least one level indicative expression as to a degree of improperness of the image or a degree of the correction to be executed to the image and at least one image correction condition corresponding to the verbal expression and the level indicative expression;

inputting the verbal expression and the level indicative expression as a correction instruction according to the image; and

correcting the image under the corresponding image correction condition according to the input verbal expression and the level indicative expression;

wherein, in correction processing of the image, switching is performed between a verbal input mode for inputting the verbal expression and the level indicative expression and a numerical input mode to input the correction instruction.

10. (previously presented) The image correction method according to claim 3, wherein the totalization is performed with respect to a predetermined number of frames.

11. (previously presented) The image correction method according to claim 4, wherein the image scenes are sorted between ordinary scenes, overexposure scenes and underexposure scenes.

12. (previously presented) The image correction method according to claim 4, wherein the image scenes are sorted between portraits, scenery, night views, underexposure scenes, and high contrast scenes.

13. (previously presented): The image correction method according to claim 3, wherein density control according to a result of extraction of an essential portion is included as image processing, and recomputation of an amount of density control according to the result of extraction of the essential portion is included as an image correction according to the verbal expression.

14. (previously presented): The image correction method according to claim 6, wherein density control according to a result of extraction of an essential portion is included as image processing, and recomputation of an amount of density control according to the result of extraction of the essential portion is included as an image correction according to the verbal expression.

15. (previously presented): The image correction method according to claim 9, wherein density control according to a result of extraction of an essential portion is included as image processing, and recomputation of an amount of density control according to the result of extraction of the essential portion is included as an image correction according to the verbal expression.

16. (new): The image correction method according to claim 2, wherein a plurality of images corrected under the image correction conditions are reproduced according to the input verbal expression.